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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/726,963	12/03/2003	David Ernest Hartley	PA-5351-RFB	4386
9896 7590 06/01/2010 COOK GROUP PATENT OFFICE P.O. BOX 2269 BLOOMINGTON, IN 47402				
EXAMINER				
SEIVERTSON, RYAN J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3731				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/01/2010		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

10/726,963

Applicant(s)

HARTLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Ryan J. Severson

Art Unit

3731

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 09 April 2010 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 17, 18 and 20-23.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.

/Anh Tuan T. Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731

/Ryan J Severson/
Examiner, Art Unit 3731

Continuation of 11, does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Examiner notes that the amendments were entered because they are made merely to overcome a 112-1st paragraph rejection.

Applicant argues that "nothing could be further from the truth" in response to Examiner maintaining item 120 of Brightbill is a covered portion.

However, Brightbill in paragraph [0023] explicitly recites "Of course, however, the invention should not be read as being limited to only stents having a coated framework per se, i.e. having an open, uncovered cells. The invention may also be used on stents featuring a drug delivery vehicle in which the CELLS ARE NOT OPEN, including sheath wrapped stents (such as those depicted in Froix, U.S. Pat. No. 6,019,789) as well as other delivery matrices (such as those depicted in Kaplan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,342,348). In such embodiments, the sheath or other delivery matrices would be disposed on only a portion of the length of the stent."

This citation of Brightbill makes clear that the therapeutic coating section 120 can alternatively be a sheath (interpreted as the claimed graft material). Therefore, nothing could be further from the truth when applicant states section 120 is not a graft material, because the cited portion of paragraph 23 above clearly states that portion 120 can be a graft material. The citation to 6,019,789 made by Brightbill shows in figure 7B (Dinh et al. where Froix is an inventor) that the stent is covered with a graft material. This is the type of structure that Brightbill is referencing when he discusses the "sheath wrapped stents".

Applicant also argues Cox et al. does not show the specific claimed structure of flexible links. However, it is unclear why this is the case, and applicant makes no argument as to what particular structure is missing. The claims require "flexible links comprising threads or fibers". Examiner can not find any other claimed structure that the links must have. Cox et al. quite clearly disclose links that are threads or fibers (130, see figure 7E). Therefore, this argument is also not persuasive.